

DETAILED ACTION
REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-24 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention is directed to a method for detecting signal conditions for a compressed information stream.

The independent claims 1, 14 are identifies the uniquely distinct feature for "outputting an indication that a valid signal is detected, when an alternate-mode condition and at least one valid frame are both detected within a same one of the predefined search window"

The independent claim 12 is identifies the uniquely distinct feature for "outputting an indication that a valid signal is detected, when a trick mode flag and a valid frame are both detected within a same one of the predefined search window"

Sasaki et al., US 5,565,921 discloses an inter-frame predicted error signal generation unit generates an inter-frame predicted error signal for selectively performing prediction between an input image signal of the current frame and a decoded image signal of the previous frame, and between the input image signal of the current frame and the image signal of the previous frame. A coding unit selectively codes the inter-frame predicted error signal generated by the inter-frame predicted error signal generation unit and the input image signal with high-efficiency compression. A statistical amount calculation unit calculates a statistical amount of the inter-frame

predicted error signal generated by the inter-frame predicted error signal generation unit. Based on the statistical amount of the inter-frame predicted error signal calculated by the statistical amount calculation unit, a discrimination unit discriminates whether or not coding by the coding unit is to be performed. A transmission unit transmits a discrimination signal indicating that coding is not to be performed when the discrimination unit discriminates that coding by the coding unit is not performed.

Maturi et al., US 5,982,830 discloses an audio decoder decodes audio frames included in a Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) bitstream for presentation or playing. Each audio frame includes a synchronization code and a frame header, followed by audio data. The synchronization codes are detected, and it is determined that the decoder is synchronized to the bitstream after a first predetermined number, for example three, of successive valid audio frames have been detected. It is similarly determined that the decoder is unsynchronized to the bitstream after a second predetermined number, which can also be three, of successive invalid audio frames have been detected. Each and every frame is determined to be valid if its header parameters are valid, it passes the CRC error check (optional), no syntax errors are detected and its frame length (interval) is as expected. The proper frame interval can be determined from the information in the header following each valid synchronization code, or can be determined by counting the number of bits between the first and second valid synchronization codes. The decoder can be muted while out of synchronization to minimize distortion of the audio presentation.

None of the prior art, either singularly or in combination, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. Claims 2-11, 13, and 15-24 are dependent on claims 1, 12, and 14 and therefore dependent claims also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a) US 6,621,979
- b) US 6,988,238
- c) US 6,400,888
- d) US 7,263,275

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NIGAR CHOWDHURY whose telephone number is (571)272-8890. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NC
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